

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MASONI, Bruno

SERIAL NO.: (International Appn No. PCT/FR03/50067)

FILED: Herewith (Intl. Filing Date 25 September 2003 )

TITLE: EXHAUST LINE CATALYST OR MUFFLER SHELL FOR MOTOR VEHICLE AND  
METHOD OF PRODUCING ONE SUCH SHELL

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Muffler or exhaust line catalyst for a motor vehicle, ~~defined by~~  
comprising:

a tube (8) manufactured by rolling and welding a metal strip (12), ~~this said tube (8)~~  
having, at one at least of its ~~ends (9, 10)~~ end thereof, a deformation by flospinning ~~for defining~~  
forming an inlet (4) and/or an outlet (5) cone for ~~the~~ exhaust gases, ~~characterized in that wherein,~~  
at least in ~~the~~ a portion ~~or portions (13, 14)~~ of the tube (8) shaped by flospinning, ~~the~~ a weld line (15)  
ensuring ~~the~~ closing of ~~the~~ a rolled metal strip (12), forms an angle (16) with respect to ~~the~~ an axis  
(17) of said tube (8).

2. (Currently amended) Muffler or exhaust line catalyst for a motor ~~vehicle, characterized~~  
~~in that the~~ vehicle of Claim 1, wherein said weld line (15) at ~~the~~ a level of the tube (8) describes a  
spiral.

3. (Currently amended) Process for manufacturing a muffler or exhaust line catalyst shell for a motor vehicle ~~comprising~~ being comprised of an inlet (4) and/or outlet (5) cone ending through a reduced diameter tube section (6, 7), ~~characterized in that, said process comprising steps of:~~

= making a tube ~~is made~~ by rolling and welding a metal strip (12) into a spiral; and

~~= in order to form the~~ deforming an end of said tube by flospinning, forming an inlet (4) and/or outlet (5) cone of said shell, ~~one and/or the other end (9, 10) of the tube (8) is deformed by flospinning.~~